

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, CG, ZA, BE
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE; VISIT TO BELGIUM OF ZAIRE
FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA

REF: (A) STATE 37690, (B) 75 BRUSSELS 08813 (NOTAL),
(C) 75 BRUSSELS 08397 (NOTAL), (D) BRUSSELS 01494 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE RAISED ISSUE OF AID TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE AT VARIOUS
LEVELS OF BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ALONG LINES REFTTEL A AND PREVIOUS.
WE FIND BELGIANS SUBSTANTIALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH US AS TO NATURE
OF THREAT AND IMPORTANCE OF U.S. AND EUROPEANS STANDING BY ZAIRE
AND ZAMBIA. BELGIAN OFFICIALS DISCOUNT DANGER OF MPLA AND CUBANS
MOVING ACROSS FRONTIER INTO ZAIRE, BELIEVING THAT MPLA WILL HAVE
HANDS FULL CONSOLIDATING ITS POSITION IN ANGOLA AND GOVERNING
DISPARATE AREA. WITH REST OF EC-9, BELGIUM HAS CALLED FOR END TO
SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

2. NGUZA VISIT - ACCORDING TO BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS,
ZAIRE FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA KARL-I-BOND, IN BRUSSELS FEBRUARY 18-19,
TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE THAT EUROPE SHOULD BE CONCERNED
WITH SOVIET CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA BECAUSE SOVIETS NOW IN A
POSITION TO CONTROL INDIAN OCEAN-SOUTH ATLANTIC SEA LINES
FROM SOMALIA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND NOW ANGOLA. NGUZA SAID THAT
MOBUTU GOVERNMENT NOT OPPOSED PER SE TO MPLA GOVERNMENT BUT
WANTED TIME FOR ANGOLAN SITUATION TO CLARIFY. AT FUTURE
TIME, ZAIRE WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH MPLA ON FOLLOWING POINTS OF
CONCERN TO ZAIRE:

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A. THREAT OF ARMED EX-KATANGA GENDARMES IN ANGOLA;

B. PROBLEM OF APPROXIMATELY 1 MILLION ANGOLAN REFUGEES
NOW IN ZAIRE;

C. QUESTION OF VITAL BENGUELA RAILROAD FOR ZAIRE'S
COMMERCE;

D. QUESTION OF THE 12,000 CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA AND
THEIR MISSION NOW THAT FIGHTING IS VIRTUALLY OVER.

3. COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZATION - FOREIGN MINISTRY
ZAIRE DESK OFFICER (JAENEN) REPEATED TO US WHAT HE SAID MANY
TIMES FEBORE (REFTELS B AND C): BELGIAN ECONOMIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WITH ZAIRE - EVEN IN LIGHT OF PRESENT
ANGOLA-RELATED URGENCY - STILL LINKED TO ZAIRE'S FORWARD
MOVEMENT ON QUESTION OF NATIONALIZED BELGIAN ASSETS. ACCORDING
TO JAENEN, AT OCTOBER 1975 BRUSSELS MEETING OF FIRST WORKING
GROUP SET UP UNDER JOINT BELGIAN ZAIRE COMMISSION, PREVIOUS
FOREIGN MINISTER (BULA) WENT BACK TO KINSHASA WITH DRAFT
GENERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT ("FRAMEWORK") AS WELL
AS DRAFT AGREEMENTS ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
AND ON PROTECTION OF BELGIAN INVESTMENTS. THESE DOCUMENTS
WERE TO BE STUDIED IN KINSHASA, SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT
MOBUTU FOR APPROVAL, AND THEN BELGIAN EMBASSY/KINSHASA AND
ZAIRE GOVERNMENT WERE TO "FLESH THEM OUT" AND IMPLEMENT
THEM. JAENEN SAID BELGIUM HAD HEARD NO FURTHER WORD FROM
KINSHASA SINCE THEN AND, THEREFORE, DURING NGUZA TRIP,
FOREIGN MINISTER GAVE NGUZA ADDITIONAL COPIES OF DRAFTS,
AS WELL AS NEW DRAFT AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
FOR STUDY AND SUBMISSION TO MOBUTU.

4. ON QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED BELGIAN
ASSETS IN ZAIRE, JAENEN REMINDED US THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL
DAVIGNON FLEW TO KINSHASA JANUARY 8 AND WORKED OUT WITH
BISENGIMANA DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH BOTH COMPENSA-
TION TO BELGIAN INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES. ON HIS RETURN
TO BRUSSELS, DAVIGNON WROTE UP THE PROPOSALS AND SENT THEM
TO BISENGIMANA FOR APPROVAL BY MOBUTU AS FRAMEWORK FOR
SETTLEMENT. BISENGIMANA ONLY CONVEYED MOBUTU'S AGREEMENT
IN PRINCIPAL TWO DAYS BEFORE NGUZA ARRIVAL IN BRUSSELS.
FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS REVIEWED PROPOSALS WITH NGUZA DURING
VISIT. IT WAS AGREED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD DRAFT
TWO COMPENSATION AGREEMENTS: COMPENSATION FOR BELGIAN
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CITIZENS AND COMPENSATION FOR BELGIAN CORPORATIONS. THESE
WOULD BE SENT TO NGUZA FOR SUBMISSION TO MOBUTU. JAENEN
SAID BELGIUM WAS AIMING AT FINISHING NEGOTIATIONS SO THAT
FOREIGN MINISTER COULD GO TO KINSHASA AT "END OF MARCH"
FOR SECOND WORKING GROUP MEETING, WHICH WOULD, IN EFFECT,
BE NOTHING MORE THAN CEREMONIAL SIGNING OF ALREADY
NEGOTIATED COMPENSATION AGREEMENTS.

5. ACCORING TO JAENEN, IF SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ON COMPENSATION ARE SIGNED WITHOUT HITCH, PROFILE OF BELGIAN AID RELATIONSHIP TO ZAIRE WOULD LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THE FOLLOWING:

A) BELGIAN SEPTEMBER 1975 AGREEMENT TO RESCHEDULE ZAIRIAN DEBT (REFTEL B);

B) IMPLEMENTATION OF SECOND WORKING GROUP COOPERATION AGREEMENTS;

C) BELGIAN WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN IMF-LED MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE. SIZE AND SCOPE WOULD DEPEND, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, ON IMF RECOMMENDATIONS;

D) IMPLEMENTATION OF 1972 AGREEMENT FOR BELGIAN GOVERNMENT (SBI) TO PROVIDE BF 300 MILLION TO OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (SOFIDE) FOR REFINANCING UP TO 50 PERCENT OF SOFIDE LOANS. BF 300 MILLION CREDIT LINE COULD BE INCREASED;

E) FINALLY, POSSIBLE BELGIAN LOAN TO FINANCE SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED BELGIAN ASSETS.

6. ZAMBIA-FOREIGN MINISTRY'S VERKAMEN TOLD US THAT BELGIUM HAD RECEIVED NO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ZAMBIA AND CURRENTLY HAD NO AID PROGRAM THERE. HE NOTED EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS' CALL FOR COOPERATION WITH ZAMBIA AND SAID FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD KEEP MATTER UNDER REVIEW. RENNER

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